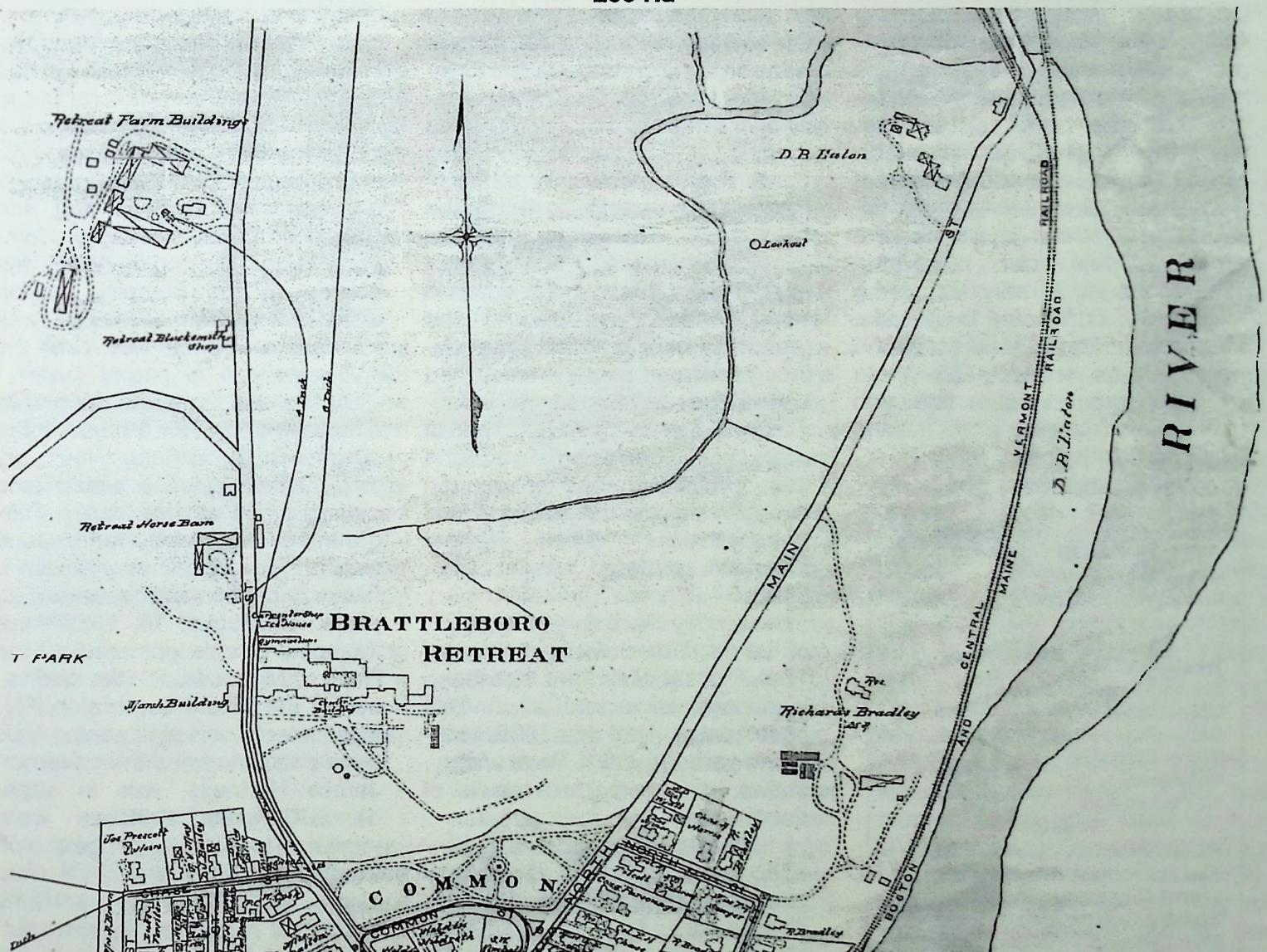


## RETREAT MEADOWS Lee Ha



For years the cement structures on the far side of the Retreat Meadows puzzled me. Often times my family and I would maneuver through them in our wide canoe while I questioned their former use. But as with most everything historical we question in

Brattleboro, someone knows what purpose this or that used to serve or where the old something or other used to be. That is how I learned that the structures in the middle of the water, presently serving nothing more than obstacles and perhaps a passing curi-

osity, were the remains of an old pump house and spillway. But what was the need of a pump house in that location, and what was that oddly shaped island leading toward the West River?

Originally, the Retreat Meadow was a valuable piece of open land

serving to bring income to the Brattleboro Retreat through haying. The Retreat Brook ran through the meadows along the southern edge of the present day water-filled meadows. It extended from near the mouth of the West River southward as shown in this map from 1895.

The construction of the Vernon Dam on the Connecticut River was completed in 1909, built by the Connecticut River Power Company. Anticipating flooding north of the dam, the power company constructed a dike near the mouth of the Retreat Brook to retain the water on its east side toward the West River. This earth embankment was constructed of galvanized wire netting and cobblestone to deter muskrats and other animals from burrowing. The concrete and brick pump house was connected to the dike to remove the water from the meadows as needed. This photo of the pump house construction was taken from the dike, looking towards Brattleboro.

**[See page 9 for photo]**

#### Table of Contents

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Retreat Meadows            | 1 |
| Annual Appeal Report       | 3 |
| Gifts from You             | 3 |
| BHS President's Report     | 3 |
| Trustees Wanted            | 4 |
| Crown, Photos & Smiles     | 4 |
| Crown Joins VCP            | 5 |
| Glass Plate Access Project | 6 |
| We've Got WiFi!            | 6 |
| Volunteers                 | 6 |
| 100 Years Ago              | 7 |

#### Trustees

Hazel Anderson, Stephen Baker, Alex Bemporad, John Carnahan, Carroll Cummings, Karen Davis, Barbara George, Nancy Goldsmith, Fran Lynggaard Hansen, Harriet Ives, Donald Long, Paul Love, Joann Nichols, Robert Tortolani.

This was housed with "one large pump for extraordinary occasions, having sufficient capacity to empty the meadow of water which has ended up on it as expeditiously as

reasonably practicable." It was also to be housed with a smaller 'automatic' pump for ordinary water and sewage drainage.

When the dam was complete, on April 2, 1909, the town waited anxiously to watch the water rise to its new depth, certainly helped by the melting snow and ice from the mountains. The local newspapers of the day, *The Vermont Phoenix* and the *Brattleboro Reformer*, reported with every issue on the changes to the river and surrounding area. Besides the expected growing width of the Connecticut River, also noted were islands disappearing and lakes forming. The initial flooding was worse than expected for much of the area, including covering the ball park and 'washing the new road across' Island Park. Eventually all the houses on the island were flooded, and part of the grandstand was washed away. Although railroad tracks were raised and bridges reinforced well in advance of the rising water, several coal cars were submerged and train tracks loosened or washed out causing disruption in all rail transportation. The Retreat Meadows suffered similar troubles.

The Friday April 9, 1909 edition of the *Brattleboro Reformer* reads, "The Retreat Meadows has been inundated, dike and all..." This photo dated April 10, 1909, looking toward the West River Valley, shows the unexpected results of rising water.

**[See page 9 for photo]**

The water continued to rise until it crested the new dam, 10 miles downstream from the Retreat Meadows. This photo, looking toward the Retreat Farm, is as the pump house and surrounding area appeared and the Vermont Phoenix reported that "The Retreat Meadows were one big lake..."

**[See page 9 for photo]**

After the initial flooding and receding of the river waters, the pumping station never did what the engineers had expected. In a letter dated June 3, 1910, the Retreat contacted the power company explaining the trouble with water standing in the valleys of the Meadow, suggesting the power company might want to dig ditches to the Retreat Brook. And again on May 22, 1912 the Retreat urged the power company to install more efficient pumping to clear the water from the Meadows in the spring. By 1915 there had been sufficient crop failure that in January 1916 the Retreat sent a bill to the CT Power Company for their loss. In a legal agreement between the Retreat and the Connecticut River Power Company dated June 20, 1918, the boards at the pumping station were taken down and water was allowed to ebb and flow over the spillway.

During this time the Meadows dried off enough for the use of the area as a flying field. Previously these new airplanes would land and take off at the Valley Fairgrounds, but with more land needed, the Meadows provided a fairly good landing area in its place. On August 18, 1922 three thousand people gathered on the Retreat Meadows for the dedication of the Meadows air strip. Flying contests and sightseeing trips were scheduled and the governor, James Hartness, was in attendance. Seven airplanes were available to take passengers aloft to view their beloved town from above. Tragically, Evelyn Harris (sister of the well known outdoorsman Fred Harris), Joe Trahan (proprietor of Brooks House Barbershop) and his 3 year old son Norman, all passengers in a plane that crashed in front of the huge crowd. Only the pilot survived. Fred Harris was a passenger in another plane at the

time of the crash. Eventually the airfield was moved from the Meadows to the large flat area on Putney Road where Agway, the Book Press and Boise Cascade buildings stand today.

Ultimately, water from the West and Connecticut River completely flooded the Meadows and Meadow Lake was formed. The pump house and spillway were left to let nature take its course and the dike formed an island, now supporting trees and wildlife.

**[See page 10 for photo]**

The name Meadow Lake has never stuck and to this day the Retreat Meadows provides recreation during all seasons, from canoeing and kayaking in summer to ice fishing and skating in the winter, a far cry from the haying of 100 years ago.

#### **ANNUAL APPEAL REPORT**

The seventh Annual Appeal which began in November 2009 drew to a close at the end of June with a total of \$3,295.00 donated by Society members and friends.

Donations to the appeal after the March newsletter were received from the following: David W. Allen, Ruth F. Struthers, Wayne and Barbara Blake, and Constance O'Masta.

To the members and friends who supported the Society this year, a most sincere thanks for your interest and generosity, especially in these hard financial times.

#### **GIFTS FROM YOU!**

Many fascinating Brattleboro-related items have been donated to the Historical Society since our last report in March through the end of July. Donated books include a book of old Brattleboro photos, copy of an 1846 book *Windham County Democrats* and a copy of a framed bill of sale for a 1936 Ford, donated by Butch Thomas; copy of *Brattleboro Waltz and Quick Step* donated by

David Grady; letters and papers related to Levi Fuller, donated by Landmark Trust; book, *The Imp of Mischief & An Irish Lad*; Two stories of Green Mountain Youth, donated by the author, Annette Murphy; photos related to Beatrice Brown, donated by Jan Backus Blodgett; 1916 Year Book for Centre Congregational Church, donated by Kenneth McGunagle, Jr.; some 1976 transparencies of Esteyville, donated by Robert George; two early ledgers of Salisbury & Co., purchased from Jonathan Flaccus; graduation dress of Grace Johnson, BHS class of 1910, donated by Nancy Olson; two gas station signs for "Lou's Amoco, West Brattleboro," one large sign, "Lewis Levasseur Garage" and sign, "LOU'S," donated by Lewis Levasseur and family. Small leather purse containing three Valley Fair ribbons, GMC arm-band and patch, weigh ticket and miniature trolley car, donated by Richard and Jeanny Aldrich; a large Estey Bible, with separate pages of family records; several miscellaneous papers of Brattleboro history, including many documents regarding the Brattleboro Sewing Machine Co., from Juan Mosmont; a 1950 dual cross reference telephone book for Brattleboro and Vicinity, donated by Emmy Thomas, along with assorted paper items, old letters, genealogy, newspapers, Thomas Family deed; Pay as You Throw material including sign, donated by Theresa Toney; Glass jar from BMH, Souvenir of building campaign in 2007, donated by Hazel Anderson.

Thanks to all our generous donors.  
Joann Nichols

#### **BHS PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The summer of 2010 has been busy and enjoyable. Highlights of our public activities were Vermont History EXPO at Tunbridge June

25-26 and the Windham County History Fair at Newfane on August 14th. This was the second year for the History Fair being organized by the Historical Society of Windham County. History EXPO organized by the Vermont Historical Society is now being held every other year.

For our BHS theme we chose the Valley Fair. The Fair was held each year from 1886 to the early 1930's on the fairgrounds off Canal Street, the present site of the High School on Fairground Road. "The crowning glory of life in Brattleboro, before our time, was the Valley Fair," according to the authors of *Before Our Time*. BHS has a considerable collection of artifacts relating to the Fair, including many photographs, colorful prize ribbons, broadsides, etc. We also had on loan from Dana Sprague a large, handsome Valley Fair broadside from 1870.

We used the same Valley Fair exhibit material for our display at Newfane in August.

Special thanks go to Helene Henry for help in designing the display and to Paul Love for transporting the materials to Tunbridge. Other members who helped at the History EXPO were Bob Tortolani and Hazel Anderson. At Newfane again there were Bob and Hazel, also Carroll Cummings. Many thanks to all who helped.

An unexpected event occurred when BHS was invited at the last moment to set up a table without charge at Book Fair sponsored by the Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers held this year on August 15th here in Brattleboro at the Nelson Withington Skating Rink. This was a nice opportunity to sell unwanted materials such as unidentified photos, duplicate postcards, books not related to Brattleboro, etc. Barbara George made the arrangements and set up the table. Harriet Ives, Carol

Barber, and Bob George watched the table, and Joann Nichols joined us at the end to count up our net for the day of \$255. Again thank you to these hardworking members.

John Carnahan

### TRUSTEES WANTED

In anticipation of the Brattleboro Historical Society annual membership meeting in November, we are putting out a call for members who would like to be a trustee. This is a great way to know what is going on at the BHS History Room and to be involved in Society activities.

The BHS board is a "working board," not an honorary title. Trustees are expected to attend monthly board meetings, usually on a Saturday morning at 9 am. We also hope that trustees can join work sessions at the History Room as often as possible on Thursday afternoons 1-4 and Saturday mornings 10-12.

People serving on the board find it to be fun, rewarding, and satisfying. We hope you will consider joining this active group of "keepers of Brattleboro History."

The date and place of the fall 2010 annual meeting will be announced shortly. For information and to indicate your interest, please contact President John Carnahan at 802-254-8398 or [carnahan@sover.net](mailto:carnahan@sover.net). JC

### BENJAMIN CROWN: PHOTOS AND SMILES

Many of the images that photographer Benjamin Crown took in the Brattleboro area are about a hundred years old. The collection of some 1300 of his pictures at BHS is a serious historical treasure. It's also hysterical.

I've been combing through catalogs of his images housed at BHS for well over a year. Each time I sit down and open a binder, I disrupt the unruffled calm of the room with chuckles and guffaws.

To be sure, Crown's images impress viewers with their technical excellence. But the images that have come down to us are also brim full of humor and sly style. Let me explain . . .

After a brief stint learning pastel painting just before the turn of the century, Crown began his photographic career in 1900. The 25 year old joined the studio of Brattleboro photographer Arthur D. Wyatt, and for the next fifteen years, he took pictures and worked in association with both Wyatt and John C. Howe. In late 1915 he set out on his own and devoted himself to commercial work and home portraiture.

While Crown occasionally chronicled big events in Brattleboro, photojournalism was not the stock in trade of an artist who toted a heavy tripod and view camera. His equipment was cumbersome and better suited to stationary subjects. Most of the images he did capture were handsome, staged portraits of people and places.

The posed photograph was common in his time; it was a dignified, if sometimes static, type of portraiture. But there was sometimes a glint of humor in his commercial shots. One picture of a rural business (GP 0915) features horses and wagons in front of a rustic structure. A half dozen men gaze at the camera; on close inspection you see that two of the more genteel fellows, calmly smoking pipe and cigarette, are comfortably seated astride an enormous porker.

But a very substantial portion of the pictures Crown shot are shots of the Crowns. I doubt he made any money memorializing his wife, his four children, and the extended family. By all appearances, the family was well-to-do, and it may be that he was at his leisure to shoot whatever he liked.

Lucky for us. His family work is rich in period detail and full of fun.

One of the first shots that took me up short and made me laugh was the image of his wife's younger brother tied up in a chair (GP 1090). Teenage Francis Deyo is girdled with heavy rope and looking quite resigned--what a crazy and unexpected pose! Part of the humor and impact comes from the standard studio set up; the seated lad is posed against a painted studio backdrop just as if he was one of the usual notables who came in for a staid, dignified portrait.



Francis GP1090

Crown's children became comfortable in front of the camera quickly because he used them constantly as models and subjects. They are by far his most common subject matter, and his inventiveness as an artist shows in the great variety of images he made featuring his four sons. In the studio, at home, in the woods, at active play and in idle moments, there they are.

Paul, born in 1907 and the Crown's youngest son, pops up most often. He was clearly cooperative and often a ham. As a young lad, he submitted to the fashionable whims of his parents and sported long hair which was styled into ringlet curls dropping

down to his shoulders. Coy portraits of him in dresses (GP 0965) and what we recognize as feminine outfits are nestled throughout the catalog of his dad's images.

Other images cast Paul as Frost Street's own Little Lord Fauntleroy (GP 0983). Dressed in velvet togs and sporting the wide sashes, lavish bowties, broad brimmed hats that were popularized by the character in Francis Hodgson Burnett's novel, he seems to be striding straight out of the book.

First time viewers of these images assume that Crown was shooting a young lass. Those fetching curls! That expressive, pretty face! But he was a lad. Whether Paul liked to dress up or not, he nonetheless submitted to many a session wearing the pretty things that spoke of good breeding and aristocracy to middle class families in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The shots of Paul and his brothers are not just beautifully crafted glimpses into the parlor life of well-to-do Brattleboro. They're fun. Paul brims with animation and humor in so many of them that you have to laugh along. In one particularly appealing split frame plate (GP 1040), clothed in a sailor's costume with an outlandishly big bow, Paul mime's both a captain giving orders on one side and a sailor giving a dutiful salute of obedience on the other. In another droll split frame plate (GP 1064) Paul, wearing suspenders and looking like a populist politician, gestures emphatically; in the adjacent frame he sports an enthusiastic smile as he vigorously empties a liquor bottle into a glass in his thirsty hand. Wow.



Paul Speaks GP1040



Paul Salutes GP1040

Maybe you'll find the time to mount the stairs in the Municipal Building and poke through the binders to explore the treasures in the Crown collection. If you start to chuckle, don't say I didn't warn you.

You can get an even better sense of the beauty of his work by seeing new prints of Crown's images which are currently on display at Vermont Artisan Designs

on Main Street in Brattleboro. The Gallery at VAD has generously donated display space, and the pictures, which include some of the delightful shots I discussed here, are on sale as a benefit for both the Historical Society and the Vermont Center for Photography, whose members have been printing and mounting the photographs.

Geoff Van Kirk

### CROWN JOINS VCP

"Do you accept dead photographers as members?" we asked the Vermont Center for Photography.

As noted in our last newsletters, we have partnered with VCP to raise funds for both organizations. VCP is printing, matting, and framing digitized images from the Benjamin Crown collection, to sell at Vermont Artisan Designs (thanks to owner, Greg Worden). Since VCP is a member organization and has several group shows in its Flat Street gallery each year, we wondered if Crown could become a member and exhibit his photos there. Apparently the VCP board was quite amused at the idea and has accepted Ben as a member. He has already participated in one group show, in August, and plans to exhibit in the December "Small Works" show as well. Shop there in December for your Christmas presents. It will help both BHS and VCP.

Barbara George

### GLASS PLATE ACCESS PROJECT

If you have visited the Society's website ([brattleborohistorical-society.org](http://brattleborohistorical-society.org)) and clicked on "Photo collection," you know that the many images there can be searched by subject, such as "Canal Street" or "skating."

What you probably don't know is that the 600-some images on the website are part of a larger collection of 2000 already-digitized and

mostly key-worded photos – results of a project that began almost two decades ago,

In 1992 the Society bought at auction a collection of about 1500 glass plate negatives, taken by Benjamin Crown in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Society already had glass plate negatives in its collection and many had been printed by founder/trustee Jeff Barry, but a resource of this size deserved special consideration. Over the following years the Society raised funds (more than \$10,000) to have the negatives digitized, an important way of protecting the fragile images and making them accessible to the public. Trustee Mary Lou Buchanan and others spent countless hours titling the images and listing the subjects (keywords) for each one.

With the addition of some work by other photographers, a total of 2000 plates were scanned. They were recorded on 37 compact disks, each accompanied by plain paper prints of the images – that's 37 loose-leaf binders. There is also a back-up copy of each disk.

This summer, in consultation with Chris Grotke and Lise LePage of MuseArts, the Society has begun a project to make the entire collection more accessible. After all, you wouldn't want to have to insert 37 different disks into your computer to look for images of Canal Street or skating.

As of a few weeks ago, the images and embedded information have been transferred to a hard drive and can all be searched at once by our staff in the History Room. The next steps will include creating thumbnail images, adding missing keywords, and deciding which images might be added to the website. We will be determining a plan of action in the coming weeks.

It's a big project and additional volunteers are welcome. So are

donors, to cover the cost of scanning approximately 500 more glass plates and a collection of hundreds of film negatives from the 1950s and '60s.

Barbara George

### WE'VE GOT WI-FI

There's a new resource at the History Room which should make research and other projects easier for visitors and volunteers – wireless connectivity.

The Society has had internet access for many years on its office computer in the History Room. But during open hours this computer is almost always in use, to answer emails and conduct Society business.

Advised by Chris Grotke and Lise LePage of MuseArts, the Society recently bought a router, enabling internet connections on laptops and other devices within the History Room. Now you can complement your Brattleboro research simultaneously with resources from the world wide web.

We hope to acquire a second computer soon, to serve the needs of staff and visitors who don't bring their own computers with them. Donations welcome!

Barbara George

### VOLUNTEERS

This spring and summer we have been blessed with two dedicated and talented volunteers – Lee Ha and Melissa Kaiser - who have helped with some important ongoing projects.

Now that her two sons have gone off to college, Lee said, she finally has time to follow up on her interest in local history. An amateur photographer who also likes to write, she has already worked in both areas for the Society (see her article in this issue). Her photo projects have included rehousing and numbering several small collections of glass plates, contacting a statewide photo archiving site for possible collaboration, pricing

professional scanning services, and working on the glass plate digital access project (see separate article). Lee owns a cleaning business, Ha Maintenance, and lives on Maple Street. We look forward to working with her more over the coming year.

A Marlboro College graduate, Melissa contacted us looking for some hands-on experience before entering the Masters program in History and Archives Management at Simmons. She spent some time investigating the history of the building she was living in – 51 Main – because she heard it once housed a funeral home. She also researched proposed equipment purchases for us online – such as the 4x5 negative scanner we need to digitize the hundreds of images we have from the 1950s and '60s. An expert computer-user, Melissa also figured out how to use the museum cataloging program, PastPerfect, to catalog an entire box of Estey-related artifacts. She did this on the Estey Organ Museum's laptop computer, so the Museum will be able to access information on Estey items held in the Society's collection. Alas, Melissa has now gone off to grad school but she promises to stay in touch.

As Lee has remarked, there is a seemingly infinite number of fascinating projects available to work on at the Society. Please consider volunteering. We welcome your participation and can help you find a project to match your interests.

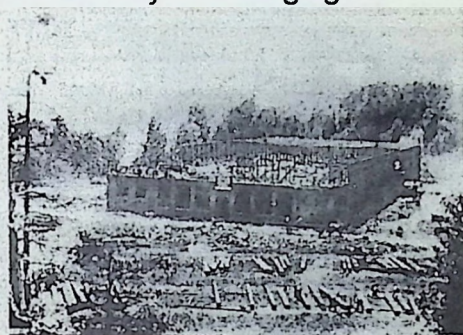
And thanks, Lee and Melissa!

Barbara George

### BRATTLEBORO 100 YEARS AGO

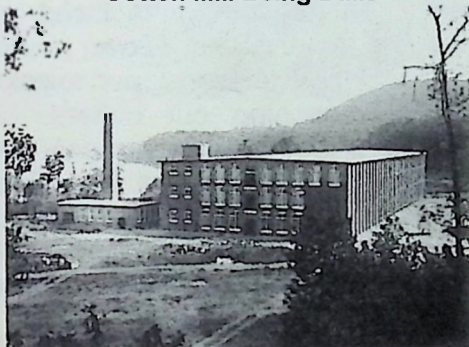
At the end of 1910, the *Vermont Phoenix* had an article entitled "Not An Average Year: Brattleboro Building Record for 1910 About \$100,000. Tenements Are Scarce and Big Demand Must be Met the Coming Year—1911 Will Be Record Breaker."

Building operations in Brattleboro for the year 1910 were not particularly extensive and the amount of money spent in building and allied trades did not average as high as in some former years. The year 1909 also was not a very good one for building, remaining about even with 1910. Although the operations have not been large the men employed as carpenters and in the allied trades have all been busy, and at present very few artisans are out of employment. No expensive residences were built the past year, but several small houses were erected and many alterations were made in other buildings. With the big **Fort Dummer Mills** to be built the coming year, in addition to the large number of tenement houses which that industry will require, the outlook for 1911 is very encouraging.



Cotton Manufacturing Mill at Cotton Mill Hill, Brattleboro in 1910.

#### Cotton Mill Being Built



Cotton Mill Photo by George Clapp

The amount of money spent on new construction amounted to about \$90,000, and to this may be added \$10,000 under the head of repairs and rebuilding, making a total of \$100,000.

There is a scarcity of houses and tenements for rent in town, the real estate agents reporting that tenements bringing from \$12 to \$20 are positively not on the market, and that almost all of those that rent for \$35 or \$40 a month are taken. Plans have been made whereby the laborers in the prospective cotton mill will be housed, but where the higher-waged employees will live is at present unknown. There will be bosses, clerks, machinists and others earning large wages and it is not probable that they will care to reside at Fort Dummer Heights with the foreign element which it is expected will live there. As there are no tenements for those who already are looking for desirable houses the problem of taking care of these people can be solved only by providing more tenements and single houses.

The year just closed saw the beginning of work on two large buildings. The Memorial casino now in the course of creation on the Brattleboro Retreat grounds is, the most expensive building to be begun and work on it will not be completed for several months. Dr. Shailer E. Lawton, superintendent of the Retreat, made rough drafts for this building, and the architects, a Boston firm, drew the plans from his ideas. This building has been described in previous issues of *The Phoenix*. At present the work is being rushed by the contractor, John C. Pellett, and the exterior already makes a handsome appearance. Probably \$30,000 has been expended on this building, and probably a like amount will be spent upon it this year. Members of the Masonic bodies started work on the next largest building, the **Masonic temple**, and in October the corner stone was laid for a building which will be a credit not to them, but to the town as well. The house formerly occupied by Dr. F.H.

O'Connor, next north of the Baptist church, was bought by the Masons, and the house is undergoing alterations while in the rear a two-story addition is in the course of erection. This building also has been described in former issues of *The Phoenix*. The amount to be expended upon it, including alterations to the O'Connor house, will reach \$15,000, while the cost of the house and land was about \$15,000. The work is in charge of Contractor Cushman.



The number of dwelling houses constructed during the year was 18. One of these was of concrete construction built by Contractor George Croll for C.E. Allen on Oak Grove Avenue. This house is of modern design, contains all the modern improvements and is commodious. Ervin M. Holden is building a house on Oak Grove Avenue which will compare favorably with the other modern houses in town and will add to the already attractive appearance of the avenue. F.A. Cook has started a house on the same avenue, and this, too, will be built on modern plans.

The building in Esteyville was not very extensive. George S. Holden completed a house on Locust Street, the ell of which was started first and was occupied before the rest of the house was built. George Baldwin erected a two-story, two-tenement house at the corner of Vine and Locust Streets.

Contractor Croll built a seven-room house with bath and furnace on Highland Avenue to put on the market. The Jerome Amidon

house on the newly-opened Pellett Street was completed the past year, and at the present time Contractor Croll is building a seven-room tenement house for John Curry on the same street. On Vernon Street the Standard Oil Company built a brick stable and a tank house. The stable is sanitary in every way and the tanks are in a separate building and are supported by brick piers.

The Tyler residence at the corner of Terrace and Tyler Streets, which Ernest S. Hall began remodeling in 1909, is now thoroughly modern in every respect. It is occupied by F.W. Putnam. The old Burnham place on Main Street was remodeled by Dr. F.H. O'Connor and made into a two tenement house with modern improvements. Dr. O'Connor has added an office of concrete at the southwest corner of the house and has fitted it up so that it is an ideal office for a physician. **Harry L. Emerson's house** on North Main Street, which was started in 1909, was ready for occupancy early the past year. Leslie A. Smith is building an attractive residence just below the Emerson house. It is the only building erected in that part of the town the past year.



H. L. Emerson's New House, North Main Street.

On Forest Street Patrick Fleming erected two houses alike in appearance and finish. They contain seven rooms each and are model apartments. Mr. Fleming rented them before the roofs were on. Across the street Contractor Croll erected an eight-room house for Judge J.M. Tyler. It is of more ornate design than any other

house built in Brattleboro last year. The house on Forest Street which practically was destroyed by fire last spring was completely rebuilt by George W. Fuller. James P. Ferriter bought the old Waite house on North Main Street and moved it to the north end of Forest Street. It has been remodeled and is now a two-tenement house with modern improvements, each tenement having seven rooms and bath.

E.S. Hall built three modern houses on Cedar Street. They contain nine rooms each and are finished in hard wood. The exteriors are plain, and each house has a fine broad veranda. Mr. Hall also built three houses on Spruce Street, all seven-room dwellings, and one seven-room house on Oak Street. The Hertzberg brothers erected a two-tenement house on Williams Street.

The Shea place on Oak Street recently bought by Patrick Fleming is undergoing alterations and will be occupied by Mr. Fleming as a home. The Outlook, which Rev. E.W. Sharp completed on Central Street, near the corner of Prospect Street, may be credited largely in 1910. It is a three-story apartment house, and with other improvements which Mr. Sharp has made, it completely changes the appearance of that corner. A barn on Flat Street built by the W.F. Richardson company was put to use the last day of November.

Extensive alterations were made in the Vermont National Bank building, it being fitted up for additional law offices for Attorney Clarke C. Fitts. A large mezzanine floor was built in E.J. Fenton & Co's store, materially increasing the floor space, and other improvements were made there. New floors and fixtures gave O.J. Pratt's dry goods store a decidedly improved appearance. The

Grange store underwent marked changes and was equipped with an approved type of electrical fixtures and fitted with steel ceilings. Charles Miner is converting the house at the corner of Terrace and North Main Streets, so long occupied by H.H. Thompson, into a three tenement house. The store on Elliot Street occupied 45 years as a fish market and now owned by W.A. Morse has been remodeled, to be occupied as a branch of the Cloverdale Company of Boston. Joann Nichols

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Website: [www.brattleborohistoricalsociety.org](http://www.brattleborohistoricalsociety.org) [all on one line]  
By U.S. Mail:  
P.O. Box 6392  
Brattleboro VT 05302-6392  
Or come to 230 Main Street, third floor!

If you haven't yet paid your 2010 renewal dues, please send them to the Society at P.O. Box 6392, Brattleboro, VT 05302-6392. 2011 dues may also be paid now. Stop in and see us at 230 Main Street!

[Many thanks to Geoff Van Kirk, whose interest in the digitized collection of Benjamin Crown photos has helped us serve our mission while enriching our coffers. A teacher in New York and part-time Vermont resident, he has been printing Crown's images for us and for VCP. You can see the results for sale in the History Room or at Vermont Artisan's.]

The following two pages have photos that belong with the article about the Retreat Meadows.



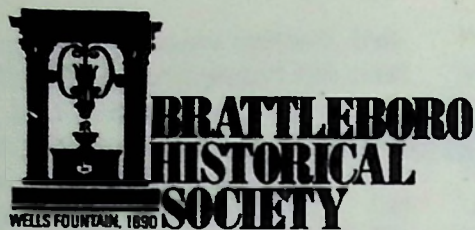
**Pump House Construction 1908**



**April 10, 1909**



**April 16, 1909**

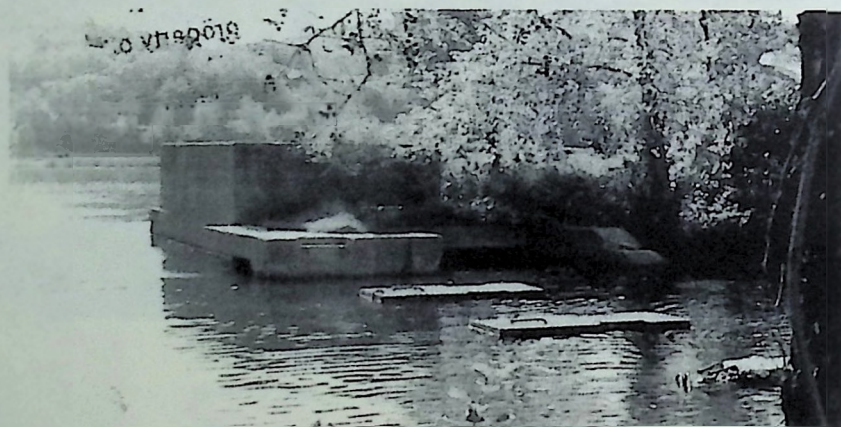


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Pump House and Spillway 1978

**LAST MINUTE NOTICE! Annual Meeting October 30th!** The Brattleboro Historical Society annual membership meeting and program are set for Saturday, October 30, 2010, at 2:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room at Brooks Memorial Library. The event will feature a program on Brattleboro Silversmiths and Jewelry Stores presented by David Perrin of Charlotte, VT. Perrin has published a book on *Coin Silver: Is it a Vermont Mark?* Attendees are invited to bring their coin silver pieces, especially if they may have been made in Vermont, for Perrin to help identify.

